

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following new paragraph to page 2 of the specification:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §.119, this application claims priority from, and hereby incorporates by reference for all purposes, copending German Patent Application Serial No. 102 55 324.6-22, entitled A *Device for Interrogating the Locked Condition of a Vehicle Safety Belt Buckle*, naming Robert Hartmann and Martin Zapf as inventors, filed November 27, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13, which begins with the words "Another technical advantage of the present invention," with the following amended paragraph:

Another technical advantage of the present invention includes an interrogation system for recognizing the condition of the locking component of a seat belt buckle which ~~which~~ can be integrated into a seat belt buckle.